

Sub 1357

12. (Newly Added) A method of packaging a web, the method comprising:
44
slitting the web into two or more narrower webs; and
folding the two or more narrower webs into superimposed layers by:
103 directing the two or more narrower webs to a nip formed by first and second rotating reels,
via 56
inducing the two or more narrower webs to move with the first and second rotating reels a length of a predetermined rotational angle to provide folding of the two or more narrower webs by holding the two or more narrower webs alternatively against surfaces of the first and second rotating reels, and
joining ends of the two or more narrower webs together so that the two or more narrower webs form a continuous whole whose length corresponds to a combined length of the two or more narrower webs. *FIG. 1*

13. (Newly Added) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein joining the ends of the two or more narrower webs comprises joining a forward/tail end of an outermost ~~web being still subdivided~~ web to a forward/tail end of an adjacent web, whose forward/tail end is joined to a forward/tail end of a next adjacent web, the joining process continuing until all of the webs are joined to form a continuous whole whose length corresponds to the combined length of the two or more narrower webs.

14. (Newly Added) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein joining the ends of the two or more narrow webs comprises joining forward/tail ends of the two or more narrower webs in pairs to form a stack, the pairs being formed at one end of the webs beginning with an outermost web, and at the other ends the pairs being formed starting from the web next to the outermost web, the webs of the stacks forming a continuous whole whose length corresponds to the combined length of the two or more narrower webs.

15. (Newly Added) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein holding the two or more narrower webs comprises holding the webs against the surfaces of the first and second rotating reels by mechanical engagement of the web by means disposed on the surfaces of the first and second rotating reels. FIG. 4

16. (Newly Added) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the means comprises at least one mechanical gripper and at least one projection extending outwardly from a periphery of the first and second rotating reels. FIG. 4

17. (Newly Added) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein holding the two or more narrower webs comprises holding the webs against the surfaces of the first and second rotating reels by mechanical engagement of the web by suction using underpressure. FIG. 4

18. (Newly Added) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein joining of the ends of the two or more narrower webs comprises joining the ends together using one or more process selected from the group consisting of sewing, taping, gluing, needling, hot sealing, ultrasound sealing, and stapling.

19. (Newly Added) A package for packaging a web formed of two or more narrower webs, the package comprising:

two or more side-by-side stacks of superimposed web layers formed by folding the web so that ends of the two or more narrower webs in the stacks are joined together so that the two or more narrower webs form a continuous whole whose length corresponds to a combined length of the two or more narrower webs.

13 20. (Newly Added) The package as claimed in claim 19, wherein the ends of the two or more narrower webs are joined together by joining a forward/tall end of an outermost web to a forward/tall end of a next adjacent web, the joining process continuing until all of the two or more narrow webs are joined to a continuous whole whose length corresponds to the combined length of the two or more narrower webs.

21. (Newly Added) The package as claimed in claim 19, wherein forward and tail ends of the two or more narrower webs are joined together in pairs, the pairs being formed at one end of the webs beginning with an outermost web, and at the other ends the pairs being formed starting from the web next to the outermost web, the webs of the stacks forming a continuous whole whose length corresponds to the combined length of the two or more narrower webs.

22. (Newly Added) The package as claimed in claim 19, wherein the ends of the webs are joined together using one or more process selected from the group consisting of sewing, taping, gluing, needling, hot sealing, ultrasound sealing, and stapling.

23. (Newly Added) The package as claimed in claim 19, further including:
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a solid outer casing disposed about the two or more side-by-side stacks.

24. (Newly Added) The package as claimed in claim 23, wherein the solid outer casing is formed of one of corrugated cardboard and plastic film.

20 25. (Newly Added) The package as claimed in claim 23, wherein forward and tail ends of the joined continuous web are disposed outside of the solid outer casing.